

Capsule Summary

Survey #: **AA 816**

Fortune House  
1339 Douglass Avenue  
Highland Beach, Maryland

c. 1913

Private residence

The Fortune House is a one and one half storey bungalow style cottage. It is an important piece of architecture in a town that was planned and designed by African Americans. The bungalow style was replicated by several property owners in the community and contributes to a design theme and variations upon it in the town.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Fortune House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1339 Douglass Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Highland Beach

VICINITY OF

Annapolis 1

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY  
Anne Arundel**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY                                      | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS  | PRESENT USE                            |   |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT             | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED          | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE   | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED                   | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL    | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS             | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                 | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT               | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED              | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC                   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL    | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION               |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                           | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY      | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER                        |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. &amp; Mrs. J. Nelson Fortune

Telephone #: 301-F07-8250

STREET &amp; NUMBER

3415 Dennlyn Rd

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF Md.

21215

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Anne Arundel Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

AA-816

**CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

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1339 Douglass

This cottage is a one and one-half storey bungalow modification. The extended gables of the roof line on this house complement the relatively narrow enclosed front porch. It is a compact unit and well proportioned with respect to the corner lot where it is situated.

The Fortune House is located in Highland Beach, Maryland on the block which is bounded by Douglass Avenue to the north, Wayman Avenue in the east, Chesapeake Avenue towards the south and Westover Lane on the west. Highland Beach is about ten miles south of Annapolis and the principal orientation of the community is towards the Chesapeake Bay. The topography of the community resembles a densely wooded area with an expansion beach front.

The cottage is a frame structure constructed on a pier foundation and finished with weatherboard. The first storey of the north view has a seven bay porch which is partially enclosed. The four bay screening supports a pedimented roof which extends from the sloped gable of the main roof. A shed roof dormer is recessed into the gable of this view and contributes to the bungalow style of this cottage. The windows are double hung with six lights over six lights on the north and western views.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

| PERIOD                                    |  | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW       |   |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| REHISTORIC                                | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE         | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION                       |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION                  | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                            | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE                        |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS                     | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE                     | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE                      |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION          | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING                   | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                          | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER                        |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT        | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY                     | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION                 |  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)                |  |  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION                     |   |   |  |  |

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1913

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Please see "Highland Beach Settlement" survey form.

Highland Beach, Maryland is a historic black town that was founded by the son of Frederick Douglass. The town was conceived by Haley R. Douglass to be a resort community in the late nineteenth century for prominent blacks. Highland Beach is a unique, existing reminder of town planning and architectural history as it relates to vernacular and high style design exhibited by black people. Most of the architecture in Highland Beach is located on the original sites and building expansions took place within a ten to fifteen year time frame. This town provides us with a concise history of design, space planning and architecture in a homogeneous, extant community.

The cottage of Mary Fortune is one of several cottages that exhibit the bungalow style of architecture. The exact date of construction is not known. Most residents of the beach constructed their homes over several years. All of the cottages in the town that were constructed prior to 1930 are important elements related to town planning and design. It is important that these houses retain their originality in terms of plan design, lot orientation, interior decoration and architectural aesthetics in order to preserve the concept of space and the dynamics of community development in this historic black town.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

see "Highland Beach Settlement"

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Barbara Collins Turner

April 1982

ORGANIZATION

Morgan State University

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Center for Built Environment Studies

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore, Maryland

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

TITLE ABSTRACT  
1339 Douglas ave

AA-816

GW 100 6/19/1913  
\$300.

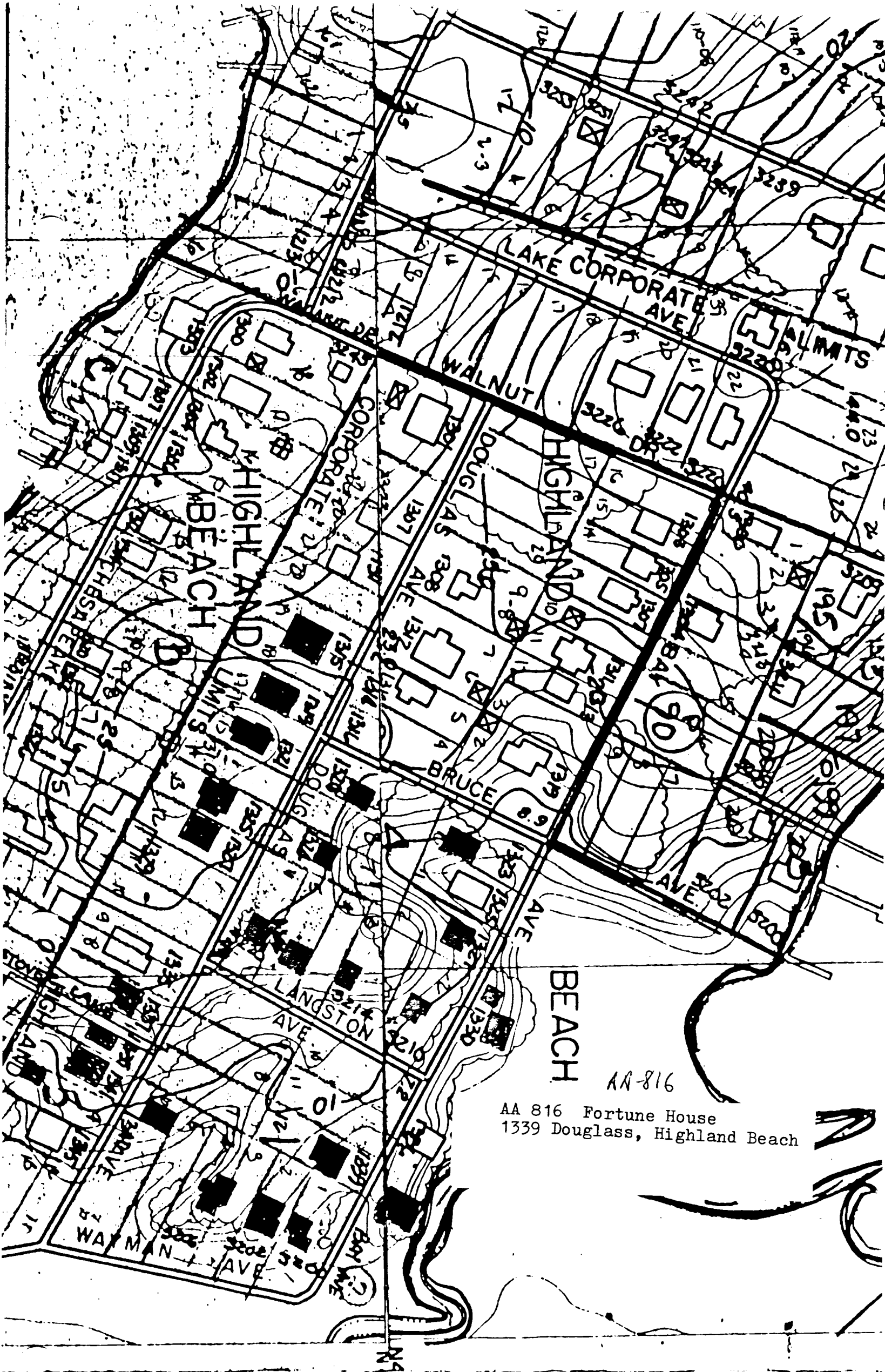
Charles R. Douglass & Laura (wife)

To

C.E. Foreman

To

J. Nelson & Mary Fortune



BEACH

AA-816

AA 816 Fortune House  
1339 Douglass, Highland Beach



AA 816 Fortune House  
1339 Douglass ,Highland Beach  
south elevation  
Fern Eisner, photographer

5/82